



STATE OF MICHIGAN
TERRI LYNN LAND, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

January 23, 2004

**INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS
- PRESCRIBED FORMAT -**

I. STANDARD FORMAT

Sheet Size

The size of the petition sheet shall be 8 ½ by 14 inches. (MCL 168.482(1)) The petition format shall be arranged horizontally on the sheet. (MCL 168.544d)

Presentation of Proposal

The proposal shall be presented in 8-point type as described below. (MCL 168.482(3))

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: The full text of a constitutional amendment shall appear at the top of the signature side of the petition sheet after an introduction which specifies the provision or provisions of the State Constitution which the proposal is designed to alter, eliminate or create. If the proposal would alter or abrogate one or more existing provisions of the State Constitution, the full text of the provision or provisions which would be altered or abrogated by the proposal shall appear beneath the proposal, preceded by the words: "Provisions of existing constitution altered or abrogated by the proposal if adopted." (MCL 168.482(3))

If there is not sufficient space at the top of the signature side of the petition sheet to print all of the foregoing, the introduction shall be followed by a brief synopsis of the proposal and reference shall be made to the reverse side of the sheet for the full text of the proposal. The full text of the constitutional amendment shall appear on the reverse side of the petition sheet after an introduction which specifies the provision or provisions of the State Constitution which the proposal is designed to alter, eliminate or create. If the proposal would alter or abrogate one or more existing provisions of the State Constitution, the full text of the provision or provisions which would be altered or abrogated by the proposal shall also appear on the reverse side of the petition sheet, preceded by the words: "Provisions of existing constitution altered or abrogated by the proposal if adopted." The signature side of the sheet shall specify the provisions of the existing constitution which would be altered or abrogated by the proposal and reference shall be made to the reverse side of the sheet for the full text of the provisions.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: The full text of a legislative proposal shall appear at the top of the signature side of the petition sheet after an introduction which specifies the title and the provision or provisions of Michigan law which the proposal is designed to alter, eliminate or create. (Art. IV, Sec. 24, of the State Constitution)

If there is not sufficient space at the top of the signature side of the petition sheet to print the legislative proposal, the introduction shall be followed by a brief synopsis of the proposal and reference shall be made to the reverse side of the sheet for the full text of the proposal. The full text of the proposal shall appear on the reverse side of the petition sheet after an introduction which specifies the title and the provision or provisions of Michigan law which the proposal is designed to alter, eliminate or create.

REFERENDUM: The full text of the legislation which would be affected by the referendum shall appear at the top of the signature side of the petition sheet after an introduction which identifies the legislation involved.

If there is not sufficient space at the top of the signature side of the petition sheet to print the legislation which would be affected by the referendum, the introduction shall be followed by a brief synopsis of the legislation involved and reference shall be made to the reverse side of the sheet for the full text of the legislation. The full text of the legislation which would be affected by the referendum shall appear on the reverse side of the petition sheet after an introduction which identifies the legislation involved.

Identification of Petition Type

The following shall be printed in capital letters in 14-point boldface type on the left margin of the signature side of the sheet. (MCL 168.482(2))

**INITIATIVE PETITION
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
or
INITIATION OF LEGISLATION
or
REFERENDUM OF LEGISLATION
PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION**

If the reverse side of the petition sheet is used to present the proposal, the appropriate title above shall also be printed in capital letters in 14-point boldface type at the top of the reverse side of the sheet.

Heading of Petition

The petition heading shall appear in 8-point type as specified below. (MCL 168.482(4)) The heading shall be placed at the top of the signature side of the sheet immediately beneath the presentation of the proposal.

We, the undersigned qualified and registered electors, residents in the county of _____, State of Michigan, respectively petition for (amendment to constitution) (initiation of legislation) (referendum of legislation).

Warning to Petition Signers

A warning to the signers of the petition shall appear in 12-point boldface type as specified below. (MCL 168.482(5)) The warning shall be placed immediately above the signature lines.

WARNING - A person who knowingly signs this petition more than once, signs a name other than his or her own, signs when not a qualified and registered elector, or sets opposite his or her signature on a petition, a date other than the actual date the signature was affixed, is violating the provisions of the Michigan election law.

Entry Spaces for Signers

There shall be presented in 8-point type fifteen (15) lines as shown below for signers to enter their city or township of registration, cursive signature, printed name, street address or rural route, Zip Code and the date of signing. (MCL 168.482(6); 168.544c(1)(2))

INDICATE CITY OR TOWNSHIP IN WHICH REGISTERED TO VOTE	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING		
					MO	DAY	YEAR
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	1.						
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	2.						

Circulator's Statement

The following statement shall appear in 8-point type in the lower left-hand corner of the petition sheet. (MCL 168.544c(1))

CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is qualified to circulate this petition and that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence; and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a qualified registered elector of the city or township indicated preceding the signature, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

Warning to Circulators

A warning to the circulators of the petition shall appear in 12-point boldface type as specified below. (MCL 168.544c(1)) The warning shall be placed in the lower left-hand corner of the sheet immediately beneath the circulator's statement.

WARNING - A circulator knowingly making a false statement in the above certificate, a person not a circulator who signs as a circulator, or a person who signs a name other than his or her own as circulator is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Space for Circulator's Signature and Address

There shall be presented in 8-point type in the lower right-hand corner of the sheet the certificate shown below for the circulator of the sheet to enter his or her cursive signature, printed signature, street number or rural route, city or township where qualified to be registered, Zip Code and the date of signing. The following line shall appear above the certificate in 12-point boldface type: **"CIRCULATOR - Do not sign or date certificate until after circulating petition."** (MCL 168.544c(1)(2))

_____	_____/_____/_____
(Signature of Circulator)	(Date)

(Printed Name of Circulator)	

(City or Township Where Qualified to be Registered)	
_____	_____
Complete Residence Address (Street and Number or Rural Route)	(Zip Code)

Identification of Petition Sponsor

The petition sheet shall contain the name and address of the person, group or organization paying for the printing of the petition form preceded by the words: "Paid for with regulated funds by." (MCL 169.247) If a detachable stub or other type of petition sheet extension is used (see below), the identifying statement may be placed on it.

II. APPROVED PETITION DESIGN OPTIONS

Extension for Instructional and/or Promotional Language

The petition may contain an extension for the presentation of instructional and/or promotional language. The extended portion of the sheet must be detached or otherwise removed prior to the filing of the petition. If a detachable stub or other type of petition sheet extension is used, the sponsor of the petition is responsible for the accuracy of the instructional and/or promotional language placed on the extension.

Accommodation of Lengthy Initiatives and Referendums

If the full text of the constitutional amendment, legislative proposal or legislation being subjected to a referendum is too lengthy to be contained on the reverse side of the petition sheet, the language of the petition may be continued on a fold over extension to the sheet. The fold over extension must not be removed prior to the filing of the petition. With the extension folded down, the petition must measure 8 ½ inches by 14 inches in size.

Clarification of Constitutional Amendment, Legislative Proposal or Referendum of Legislation

If the petition offers a constitutional amendment which involves alterations to existing provisions of the State Constitution, the alterations may be presented by showing any language that would be added to the provision or provisions in capital letters and any language that would be deleted from the provision or provisions struck out with a line.

If the petition offers a legislative proposal or a referendum of legislation which involves alterations to existing provisions of Michigan law, the alterations may be presented by showing any language that would be added to the provision or provisions in capital letters and any language that would be deleted from the provision or provisions struck out with a line.

Modifications in Column Headings Over Signers' Entry Lines

- The words "INDICATE CITY OR TOWNSHIP IN WHICH REGISTERED TO VOTE" may be modified to read, "MARK WHETHER REGISTERED TO VOTE IN CITY OR TOWNSHIP AND WRITE ITS NAME."
- The words, "STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE" may be modified to read, "STREET NO. IN CITIES AND TOWNSHIPS HAVING STREET NOS. OTHERWISE R.R. NOS."

Presentation of Circulator's Statement in First Person

The circulator's statement may be presented in first person as follows:

CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR

I, the circulator of this petition, assert that I am qualified to circulate this petition, that each signature on the petition was signed in my presence; and that, to my best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a qualified registered elector of the city or township indicated preceding the signature, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

Modifications in Circulator's Entry Lines

- The words, "CITY OR TOWNSHIP WHERE QUALIFIED TO BE REGISTERED" may be modified to read, "NAME OF CITY OR TOWNSHIP WHERE QUALIFIED TO BE REGISTERED."
- The following line may be added under the circulator's certificate in boldface type:
"Note: You may sign and circulate the same petition."

Reduction in Number of Entry Lines for Signers

The number of lines appearing on the petition sheet for signers to enter their city or township of registration, cursive signature, printed name, street address or rural route, Zip Code and date of signing may be reduced in number. As any reduction in the number of *lines* provided for signers increases the number of *petition sheets* needed to satisfy the signature requirement, the use of at least seven (7) lines is prescribed to assure that the resultant petition sheet increase is not so great as to impede or delay the petition processing procedure.